

SAINT PAUL NAACP
Roy Wilkins Memorial Branch
270 North Kent Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

April 29, 2019

BY EMAIL ONLY

Cindy Amoroso
Superintendent
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191
Diamondhead Education Center
[REDACTED]
Burnsville, MN 55337
[REDACTED]

Abigail Alt
School Board Chair
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191
[REDACTED]
Burnsville, MN 55337
[REDACTED]

RE: Concerns at John Metcalf Middle School

Dear Superintendent Amoroso and Board Chair Alt:

I am writing to inform you that in recent weeks the St. Paul NAACP has received multiple complaints of racial discrimination by administrators at John Metcalf Middle School. We have heard reports by staff and one parent. One of the individuals who contacted us told us that additional staff and parents, as well as students, shared the stated concerns and were willing to come forward to substantiate the claims. We are writing to make you aware of these complaints and to strongly encourage you to investigate this matter further.

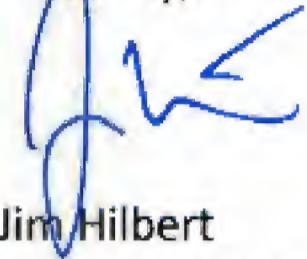
Broadly speaking, complaints against the Metcalf administration have included:

1. Heavy reliance on suspension and intimidation as the primary disciplinary technique, as well as the disproportionate suspension and intimidation of Black and Indigenous students.
2. Lack of effectively addressing racist language and graffiti in the school.
3. Use of the N-word by the school principal contributing to a hostile environment for Black students, and poor modeling for other students.
4. Initially and publically touting support for the formation of a Black Student Union, as requested by students, and then erecting multiple barriers and requirements for this group that have not been faced by any other student group. Due to barriers, the elimination of one of the leaders, and repeated enquiry into and scrutiny of the group's mission, after several months, this group has yet to be formed. We have been told that many believe the reason this group is being treated differently is due to its racial identification, and that the administration fears having a quasi "watchdog" group in the building.

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Given the seriousness of the complaints, and that these have come from multiple sources, we have significant concerns about the conditions at Metcalf. We would very much appreciate your response to this letter and a report on your plans to address these concerns. Please let us know if the St Paul NAACP can be of assistance as you begin your internal investigation or any other steps you plan to take.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Hilbert".

Jim Hilbert
St. Paul NAACP Education Committee Chair

cc: Dianne Binns, President, St Paul NAACP [REDACTED]

Dr. Theresa Battle, Incoming Superintendent, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191
[REDACTED]